(b) Thirty-two.

(c) Ever since commencement in 1983 of twenty-five per cent reservation for direct recruitment, only two qualified in the Competitive Examination and were appointed as such.

(d) Three. The process of selection for filling up of the vacancies has been started by the Jammu and Kashmir High Court.

Unfair Trade Practices Adopted by Companies

1048. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is an abnormal price rise in sector like cement, tyre, soap, toothpaste and medicines due to profiteering and unfair trade practices by companies; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) As per the index number of wholesale prices furnished by the Office of the Economic Adviser, Ministry of Industry, the wholesale prices of cement, tyres, soaps, toothpaste and drugs and medicines have increased during the period June, 1991 to June, 1992. The MRTP Commission is empowered to inquire into cases involving Monopolistic, Unfair and Restrictive Trade Practices as defined in the MRTP Act, 1969. In this context, the MRTP Commission has recently moved against a cement company for allegedly committing a monopolistic trade practice by increasing prices unreasonably at short intervals. The Commission has also proceeded by way of instituting inquiries against manufacturers of cement, drugs and soaps for resorting to restrictive trade practices either by way of manipulation of prices of their respective products or by re-sale price maintenance or through predatory pricing.

1049. [*Transferred to the 29th July*, 1992.]

Vacant p osts of judges in Bombay High Court

1050. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts of High Court judges which are vacant at present in the Bombay High Court including all its benches; and

(b) what are the reasons for these posts remaining vacant and by when these posts are likely to be filled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) As on date there are 10 vacancies of permanent/Additional Judges in the Bombay High Court in its sanctioned strength of 54 permanent/Additional Judges. Recommendations received for filling up 5 vacancies have been processed. Recommendations for filling up the remaining vacancies have not been received from the Chief Justice of the High Court and the State authorities in terms of Article 217(1) of the Constitution of India. While all possible efforts are made to fill up the vacancies at the earliest, it is not possible to indicate by when the vacancies would be filled up.

Plan Outlay for Poverty Alleviation Programmes

1051. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:
SHRI SURENDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the plan outlay for poverty alleviation programmes in the Eighth Five Year Plan;